

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims

Please cancel claims 52-102 and substitute new claims 103-151, so that the claims read as follows:

1-102. (Cancelled)

103. (New) A composition for use in a water tank, comprising a tablet composition comprising an ionic compound which deploys its function following a first addition of water to the tank, a particle having a core, the core comprising a substance intended to perform its function after a complete or partial emptying of the first addition water from the tank and inflow of fresh water into the tank, and a covering surrounding the core, the covering comprising a compound whose solubility is inversely proportional to a concentration of the ionic compound in a surrounding medium, wherein the particle is arranged in or on the tablet such that only a portion of a surface of the particle directly contacts the tablet, wherein the concentration of the ionic compound caused by dissolution of the tablet is, until the inflow of fresh water into the tank, sufficiently high to prevent dissolution of the covering or detachment of the covering from the core.

104. (New) The composition according to claim 103, in which each particle is coated with a substance which, independently of the concentration of the ionic compound in the surrounding medium, dissolves or separates from the particle during a period from introduction of the composition to a filled water tank up to the complete or partial emptying of water from the water tank.

105. (New) The composition according to claim 103, in which the particle is received in a cavity of the tablet wherein the cavity surrounds the particle.

106. (New) The composition according to claim 105, in which the particle has a same volume as the cavity.

107. (New) The composition according to claim 105, in which the cavity has a larger volume than the particle contained therein.

108. (New) The composition according to claim 107, in which the particle is loosely arranged in an interior of the cavity.

109. (New) The composition according to claim 107, in which the particle is fixed in an interior of the cavity.

110. (New) The composition according to claim 109, in which the particle is fixed by an adhesive.

111. (New) The composition according to claim 105, in which the cavity is positioned substantially centrally in an interior of the tablet.

112. (New) The composition according to claim 111, in which the tablet has a single substantially spherical cavity.

113. (New) The composition according to claim 112, in which the cavity contains a single spherical particle whose diameter is less than an internal diameter of the cavity.

114. (New) The composition according to claim 103, in which the particle is received in a cavity of the tablet, wherein the cavity only partly surrounds the particle.

115. (New) The composition according to claim 103, in which particle is received in a depression in a surface of the tablet.

116. (New) The composition according to claim 114, in which the particle is placed in the cavity in such a way that it does not project beyond the surface of the tablet.

117. (New) The composition according to claim 115, in which the particle is placed in the depression in such a way that it does not project beyond the surface of the tablet.

118. (New) The composition according to claim 116, in which the cavity contains a single particle, whose volume equals that of the cavity.

119. (New) The composition according to claim 118, in which the cavity has a circular mouth.

120. (New) The composition according to claim 119, in which the mouth of the cavity is smaller than a diameter of the particle received therein.

121. (New) The composition according to claim 120, in which the particle is loosely arranged in the cavity.

122. (New) The composition according to claim 120, in which the particle is fixed in the cavity.

123. (New) The composition according to claim 122, in which the particle is fixed by an adhesive.

124. (New) The composition according to claim 103, in which the covering comprises a compound which, at a concentration of the ionic compound prior to the inflow of fresh water, is insoluble or only slightly soluble and, at a concentration of the ionic compound following the inflow of an adequate quantity of fresh water, the covering compound has an adequate solubility to ensure that it is dissolved or detached from the core, such that release of core material into the surrounding medium occurs.

125. (New) The composition according to claim 124, in which the solubility of the covering compound is inversely proportional to OH^- ionic concentration in the surrounding medium.

126. (New) The composition according to claim 125, in which the covering compound is a polymer.

127. (New) The composition according to claim 126, in which the covering compound is a pH-sensitive polymer, which comprises a repeat unit having a basic function not forming part of a backbone chain of the polymer.

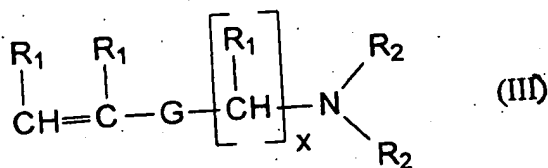
128. (New) The composition according to claim 127, in which the repeat unit is based on a compound selected from the group consisting of vinyl alcohol derivatives, acrylates and alkyl acrylates having the basic function.

129. (New) The composition according to claim 127, in which the polymer is a carbohydrate functionalized with the basic function.

130. (New) The composition according to claim 127, in which the basic function is an amine.

131. (New) The composition according to claim 130, in which the amine is a secondary or tertiary amine.

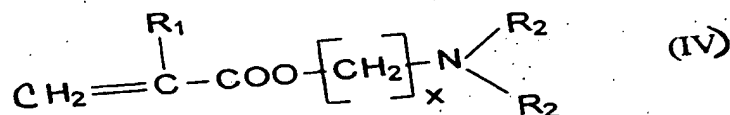
132. (New) The composition according to claim 130, in which the repeat unit of the polymer is based on a compound of formula III:



in which

G is a linking group selected from -COO-, -OCO-, -CONH-, -NHCO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCOO-, -OCONH- or -OCOO-, each R₁ is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms, each R₂ is hydrogen or an alkyl group 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and x is an integer from 1 to 6.

133. (New) The composition according to claim 132, in which the repeat unit is based on a compound of formula IV.



in which

R_1 is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms, each R_2 is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and x is an integer from 1 to 6.

134. (New) The composition according to claim 127, in which the basic function is an imine.

135. (New) The composition according to claim 127, in which the basic function is a basic aromatic N-containing group.

136. (New) The composition according to claim 135, in which the basic function is a pyridine group.

137. (New) The composition according to claim 135, in which the basic function is an imidazole group.

138. (New) The composition according to claim 129, in which the polymer is derived from chitosan.

139. (New) The composition according to claim 124, in which the covering compound is k-carrageenan.

140. (New) The composition according to claim 124, in which the solubility of the covering compound is proportional to H^+ ion concentration in the surrounding medium.

141. (New) The composition according to claim 140, in which the covering compound is a polymer.

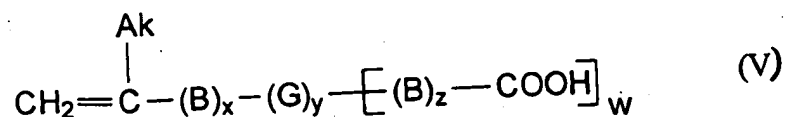
142. (New) The composition according to claim 141, in which the covering compound is a pH-sensitive polymer having a repeat unit having an acid function.

143. (New) The composition according to claim 142, in which the polymer has a repeat unit based on a compound selected from the group consisting of vinyl alcohol derivatives, acrylates and alkyl acrylates having the acid function.

144. (New) The composition according to claim 142, in which the polymer is a carbohydrate functionalized with the acid function.

145. (New) The composition according to claim 142, in which the acid function is a carboxyl group.

146. (New) The composition according to claim 145, in which the repeat unit of the polymer is based on a compound of formula V:



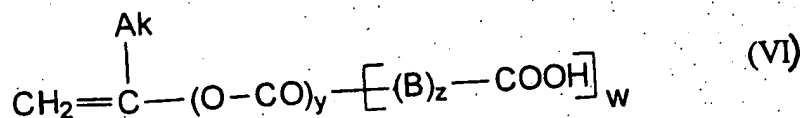
in which

G is a linking group selected from $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CONH}-$, $-\text{NHCO}-$, $-\text{NHCONH}-$, $-\text{NHCOO}-$, $-\text{OCONH}-$ or $-\text{OCOO}-$,

B is a hydrocarbon group selected from straight or branched-chain, saturated or unsaturated, optionally substituted alkylene, arylene or aralkylene,

Ak is hydrogen or an alkyl group, preferably with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, x, y and z, independently of one another, are either 0 or 1, and w is an integer from 1 to 3.

147. (New) The composition according to claim 146, in which the repeat unit is based on a compound of formula VI:



in which

B is a hydrocarbon group selected from straight or branched-chain, saturated or unsaturated, optionally substituted alkylene, arylene or aralkylene,

Ak is hydrogen or an alkyl group, preferably with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, y and z, independently of each other, are either 0 to 1, and w is an integer from 1 to 3.

148. (New) The composition according to claim 144, in which the polymer is derived from a polysaccharide by partial esterification of some of its free hydroxyl groups with a product obtained by esterification of one mole of a polycarboxylic acid with one mole of a polyol.

149. (New) The composition according to claim 103, in which the core comprises a material selected from the group consisting of fragrances, disinfectants, pH-indicators, and combinations thereof.

150. (New) The composition according to claim 149, in which the core is in a form of an encapsulated liquid.

151. (New) The composition according to claim 149, in which the core is in solid form.